

**Office of Health Equity Advisory Committee Meeting  
Public Comment Section  
September 29, 2015**

**Motion: May 13, 2015, Meeting Minutes**

***Public Comment – Section 1.***

*(No public comment)*

**Motion: Bylaws Ad Hoc Committee Members**

***Public Comment – Section 2.***

*(No public comment)*

**9:20 a.m. Health in All Policies (HiAP) Task Force Discussion**

***Public Comment – Section 3.***

**PETE LAFOLLETTE**

Thank you, Sandi. I'm from Ventura County and I do mental health advocacy. The -- the economic sources of violence and social dissonance that you've been touching upon, you know, it's so -- it's so present in our culture now, but even the Vatican was over here trying to shed light on it.

One phenomenon - we all know this is happening - is -- is the tech culture. The tech culture displaces people and it emphasizes technology, not humanity. And the effects of that are deregulated social services, social norms, and a disengaged public, and obviously the growing gap between the rich and the poor.

The -- the need for mental health services in a (indiscernible) way is -- is getting -- getting so critical that I believe that we need a huge civics project along the line of the Army Corps of Engineers to start addressing it. These are huge problems that we're seeing a slippage and not making progress by emphasizing -- agencies emphasizing technological cures to human solutions.

Also, the delivery of services is -- it's a segregated model where the mental health and -- and medical models are -- are separated. And I'm here to -- to promote a recovery model and that is largely done by peers. There's strength in numbers and, as we all know, peers getting together and celebrating what is working and begin to, you know, address and overcome huge challenges that are -- don't seem to be going away. But, great work so far. Thanks for the presentation.

**10:00 a.m. CDPH and OHE Updates**

***Public Comment – Section 4.***

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**PETE LAFOLLETTE**

Thank -- thank you. Ventura County, again.

On this discussion item, the speaker spoke of observing agency resources and how they really are quite top-heavy, and it's -- it's quite sobering. I did a two-year stint on the Oversight and Accountability Services Committee, and what I observed was funding services were obfuscated.

It was hard to determine where these large, large amounts of money, multiple billions per year, was exactly going, but if you take a look at the Oversight and Accountability website, huge contracts are awarded to cities like L.A., San Bernardino, San Diego, but yet there's no direct services, so, again, that's increasing the gap that -- you know, that we're -- we're talking about today, the -- the huge gap in income.

And the Oversight and Accountability representative that's here today spoke on police resources and the resources they receive, and that comment was not lost on me because it's really -- it's a -- also a disproportionate amount and a retroactive approach as opposed to a proactive approach.

So, they get the resources and the humanity involved is directed towards emergency services, which is overburdened. There's no room at emergency services for mental health services. They're pretty full doing medical and the resources get directed towards institutions and -- and jail - everywhere except direct services, so you're not seeing -- you know, this is what constitutes the broken promises of the Mental Health Services Act.

We're not seeing these large amounts of resources that could and should be put into effect, but they're staying on the top or, you know, used to continually study problems, everywhere except where they really need to go. So, thank you.

**11:00 a.m. Portrait of Promise: The California Statewide Plan to Promote Health and Mental Health Equity**

***Public Comment – Section 5.***

*(No public comment)*

**2:10 p.m. OHE Advisory Committee Member Orientation**

***Public Comment – Section 6.***

*(No public comment)*

**3:00 p.m. How the State is Aligning with Health Equity**

***Public Comment – Section 7.***

*(No public comment)*

**4:30 p.m. Planning for the December 8-9, 2015, Advisory Committee Meeting**

***Public Comment – Section 8.***

*(No public comment)*

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**4:50 p.m. Debrief | Public Comment Period | Public Comment for Items Not on the Agenda  
Public Comment – Section 9.**

**RAJA MITRY**

DR. NOLFO: So, this was an email that came to Rocco and to me a couple of days ago from one of our stakeholders, Raja Mitry, R-A-J-A M-I-T-R-Y, for the record, and he said that he couldn't be here today because of another event, but we said that we would read it into the public comment on his behalf.

“Dear Tamu,

“Thank you for your presentation at the San Francisco Stakeholders and Equity meeting. Since I won't be able to call into OHE's Advisory Committee on September 29<sup>th</sup> because the CMMC is meeting the same day, I'd like to submit my comments.

“Fostering and developing trust with diverse communities and engaging in joint ventures that value each other's backgrounds can increase opportunities which produce slides with health and dignity. Utilizing the approach of cultural humility shows honor to the rich histories of California's diverse populations, the inherent values around generational and gender roles within different cultures and their traditions, their healing practices that have helped cultural communities survive over the generations.

“Even if our demographic data collection systems, both local and statewide, are currently limited in gathering distinct evidence to these among the broad categories of White, Latino, Asian, African American, that should not deter us from responding to the unique heritages that many people uphold as part of their identity and cultural roots, which help them to thrive with a sense of belonging and drive.

“This also applies to Native American and Tribal communities. It's important to disaggregate demographics in order to reduce disparities, develop an appreciation of cultural identity, to outreach better with and engage and serve appropriately the state's numerous diverse communities across the lifespan.

“I anticipate the increasing numbers of refugees and immigrants from Arabic-speaking countries of the Middle East region. A well-trained, culturally and linguistically, workforce must be prepared to meet the needs of these groups and other vulnerable populations who have endured with complex traumas arising from homeland displacement, war/violence, extreme losses, harsh living conditions, as well as issues related to immigration and state shelter.

“I'm hopeful about and grateful for your statewide plan.”